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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 26 | Min 17 | Humidity 52% Partly Cloudy Sensex 78,248 | Nifty 23,644 | Gold 76,468 | Silver 88,228 | Dollar 85.46 | Euro 89.17 | GBP 107.60

GRAVEYARD SHIFT

There is no care or sterilisation programme for hundreds of dogs that have made burial grounds in the city their home

PAGE 2

DO THE MATH

CAG report reveals ₹13.33 crore shortfall due to incorrect stamp duty collection of which just over ₹34 lakh has been recovered

PAGE 4

Even as city police are getting ready to secure major party hotspots ahead of NYE bash today, contractor who installed CCTV cameras last year is still waiting for his dues to be cleared

BAD HANGOVER FROM LAST NYE PARTY

All arrangements now done to clear dues, claim police

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KAUSHIK JN

We are almost into 2025, and CCTV cameras are being set up for New Year Eve celebrations at major streets of the city. But spare a thought for the contractor who had set up cameras last NYE. It is a tad unsettling to know that the city police have failed to clear bills for installation of CCTV cameras on the occasion of New Year celebrations on Brigade Road, Church Street and MG Road on December 31, 2023. Though the police say they had not received some details, the fact of the matter is it is exactly one year, and the bills are unpaid so far.

Police had engaged the services of a contractor to install CCTV cameras on Church Street, Brigade Road, MG Road and other areas in Ashoknagar and Cubbon Park Police Station limits last year. Usually if bills are unpaid, complaints are taken to the police, but in this case, the contractor is at a loss over redressal as it is the police themselves who have failed to honour

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PAGE 6 PARTY ETIQUETTE GUIDE

PAGE 7 2024: THROUGH BM'S EYES

"I had to borrow money from others to pay wages to the workers... I was the owner of a company on December 31, 2023 and now I have become the employee of a company by December 31, 2024

—Vinod Kumar of Sterling CCTV Solutions

Lessons not learnt

Report shows number of single-teacher schools rising in state over the years

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Over the past five years, the number of single-teacher government schools in Karnataka has been steadily rising. As the shortage of teachers continues, the student-teacher ratio gap has been steadily widening.

A recent report by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) titled 'Performance of Primary Education Institutions in Karnataka for 2024' highlights this alarming trend. The report, based on data from the Student Tracking System (STS) of the Education Department between 2017-18 and 2021-22, underscores the growing challenges faced by the state's primary education system.

Number of single-teacher schools

According to the report, "The number of single-teacher schools in Karnataka has seen a significant increase over the years. From 2017-18 to 2021-22, the count rose from 4,652 to 6,616, marking an overall increase of approximately 42.3%. Year-on-year, the growth was as follows: a 6% rise in 2018-19 (to 4,931), a 1.8% increase in 2019-20 (to 5,022), a 13% jump in 2020-21 (to 5,678), and a 16.5% surge in 2021-22 (to 6,616)."This surge is a direct violation of the Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009."

According to Section 25 of the RTE Act, every school with up to 60 students must have at least two teachers. However,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

THINGS TO DO

01 Handloom & handicrafts mela

The Grand Rajasthani Exhibition organised by Maaruthi Enterprises brings together rural Artisans from the eastern part of India featuring vast collections of cotton & silk handlooms & handicrafts from Rajasthan & elsewhere, Orissa tie and dye, dress material & sarees, West Bengal cotton sarees, and many more. **Where: Sri Dwaraka Convention Hall, Nanjappa Circle, Vidyaranyapura; When: Until January 19, 10 am to 9 pm**

02 New Year's Eve party

Hosts the Anti-Resolution Party – The NYE Bash You Can't Miss. Forget promises and resolutions; bring your mischief, as SOCIAL has lined up the perfect entertainment to keep the party going into the new year. It's the perfect blend of New Year's excitement with a rebellious twist.
Where: Where: All SOCIAL outlets
When: December 31, 7 pm onwards

03 Festive feast

Bid farewell to 2024 and step into 2025 with a celebration like no other at LimeLight with an evening filled with live entertainment, delicious feasts and festive vibes that will leave you captivated. **Where: LimeLight Emporium, Hotel Royal Orchid; When: December 31, 7 pm onwards**

04 Sing & dance your way into 2025

Boogie into 2025 with a bang at Ironhill India with the electrifying beats of renowned DJs JOY and Zink as you indulge in unlimited delicious food and craft brews. **Where: Ironhill, Marathahalli When: December 31, 8 pm onwards**

05 Art exhibition

Last few days of 'Namma Mestru: The Artistic Voyage of JMS Mani' (1948-2021) curated by Darshan Kumar YU & Amrutha R, Dy Curator, NGMA Bengaluru. **Where: National Gallery of Modern Art, Palace Road**
When: Until January 1, 2025, 10 am to 6 pm

Sterilise, feed stray dogs at graveyards: Animal activists

Burial grounds have become dumping sites for pups, dogs: Volunteers seek help to ensure welfare of strays at graveyards

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KAUSHIK JN

Animal activists and citizens are asking the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Animal Husbandry Department to take care of hundreds of dogs residing in burial grounds across the city. According to CJ Memorial Trust's petition, volunteers have found hundreds of dogs across burial grounds; most of them are not neutered. CJMT launched a grave mission dealing with stray dogs at burial grounds in the city. "The squad members were shocked to find 40 dogs in one graveyard alone during a neuter walk in November by Richmond Canine Squad," the petition by CJMT read.

Volunteers have named the graveyard dogs as 'The Gravities,' said Priya Chetty-Rajagopal, a volunteer. "I think the sheer number of strays deserves a methodical approach. The burial grounds have become dumping grounds for pups and dogs as well, and this issue of relocation needs to be addressed too," she said. She said that the BBMP authorities have to find out the authorities concerned (church, BBMP, trust, etc) and speak/write to them. "Apart from developing rapport and keeping phone numbers and names handy, the authorities have to locate ground caretakers and work closely with them to ensure feeding, care, and updates. The BBMP or volunteers must explain the use of Animal Birth Control (ABC) and Anti-Rabies Vaccination (ARV) programs to the graveyard employees," Rajagopal added.

Need of hour: Detailed survey & feeding strays

Nandita Subbarao, an animal activist, said that catching dogs in open spaces is a challenge. Legwork should be done by the volunteers to avoid the dogs scooting the moment the BBMP van reaches the spot.

"Surveys should be done at each cemetery, and volunteers have to take pictures and maintain a repository in Google documents. The focus should be on the intact ones, especially female dogs. The volunteers have to observe the peak/lean time for human movement at the burial ground. Most burials take place later in the day, so early morning is probably the best time for catching dogs," said Subbarao, adding that while catching dogs at night is great in theory, it is practically very difficult, as unlike dogs and cats, humans do not have such good eyesight at night, so the dogs will easily outrun the catchers, and the catchers will end up with injuries.

> **"Dogs from burial grounds go outside in search of food. If each family takes responsibility of feeding one stray dog, it will solve the problem**
> – Pramila Vincent, a volunteer

Another volunteer, Pramila Vincent, said the need of the hour is for area residents to take the responsibility of feeding stray dogs instead of blaming the BBMP Animal Husbandry Department. "If each family takes the responsibility of feeding one stray dog, it will solve the problem. With residents feeding strays, the dog bite cases will be reduced. There are occasions of stray dogs from burial grounds going outside in search of food," she said.

St John's Medical College's butterfly garden: Nurturing butterflies, fostering biodiversity

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The butterfly garden at St John's Medical College campus, established by the Vibhinna Foundation last year, has become a sanctuary for a vibrant array of butterfly species. Designed with ecological precision, the garden is a thriving habitat that supports the entire life cycle of butterflies, showcasing how urban spaces can play a role in biodiversity conservation.

The success of this initiative lies in the thoughtful selection of host plants that cater to the specific needs of butterflies, ensuring the survival of these delicate pollinators, some of which are rare and endangered. "The butterfly garden at St John's is a testimony to the resilience of nature when given the right environment. By planting host species, we've created a thriving ecosystem that brings back butterflies to urban spaces," said David Kumar from the Vibhinna Foundation.

Plants like Adenanthera pavonina, known to attract the Common Nawab, and Aegle marmelos, a favourite for the Lime Butterfly, were chosen for their ability to provide a safe haven for egg-laying and nourishment for growing caterpillars. Other plants, such as Alseodaphne semecarpifolia, which supports the Common Blue Bottle and Common Mime, and Annona reticulata, a host for the Tailed Jay, have played crucial roles in drawing butterflies to the garden. Additionally, plants like Aristolochia indica, essential for the Southern Birdwing and Crimson Rose, and Butea monosperma, which attracts the Gram Blue and Pea Blue, have further enhanced the diversity of butterfly species. The garden's location in a sunny area has been another key factor in its success. Butterflies, being cold-blooded creatures, rely on sunlight for warmth to fly and feed. The garden provides an ideal environment where they can bask in the morning sun, aiding their metabolism and ensuring active feeding.

> **"Throughout year, butterfly garden has hosted a dazzling array of butterflies, each species appearing in its season**
> – David Kumar, Vibhinna Foundation

"Throughout the year, the garden has hosted a dazzling array of butterflies, each species appearing in its season. From the Striped Tiger in January to the Southern Birdwing in April and the Tailed Jay in December, the garden offers a mesmerising spectacle that not only supports biodiversity but also provides therapeutic benefits to those who visit," Kumar further said.

This butterfly garden stands as a model for urban ecological efforts, demonstrating how the right combination of plants and environmental planning can create a thriving habitat for pollinators, Kumar said, adding, "Vibhinna Foundation's initiative calls for more such efforts to ensure these "winged beauties" continue to grace our cities and play their vital role in the ecosystem."

145 spots identified for greening Bengaluru

Palike identifies viable planting sites using its AI-based tool, aiming to plant over 20,000 native & medicinal saplings across city

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The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has identified nearly 150 spots across the city for its afforestation drive. The civic agency has put its fingers on the spots with the help of its AI-based tool called Mapathon.

"Using the technology, we have identified 145 locations across all eight zones in the city to carry out afforestation drives. The idea is to identify viable planting sites instead of planting saplings in the wrong places, leading to unsuccessful growth.

We can plant more than 20,000 saplings on the sites identified," said BLG Swamy, Deputy Conservator of Forest from the BBMP Forest Department.

How were locations selected?

Mapathon has zeroed in on these locations with the help of satellite-based imagery. BBMP launched Mapathon in May 2023 to meet its compensatory afforestation targets.

"The idea is to create a land bank for compensatory afforestation. After the tool identifies open spaces apt for plantation, we go ahead with planting saplings in the case of government land

It is an AI tool that uses spatial mapping to locate empty land parcels. This is followed by on-ground verification with the help of volunteers or citizen participation. The initiative is part of the Bengaluru Climate Action Cell.

"The idea is to create a land bank for compensatory afforestation. After the tool identifies open spaces apt for plantation, we go ahead with planting saplings in the case of government land.

If it turns out to be private property, we approach the owner and collaborate with them with the assurance that the trees will be removed once they wish to start using the space in the future," added Swamy.

The department is also running a virtual Mapathon through its Tree Census dashboard. In this case, citizens are using the dashboard to apprise us of available sites.

What kinds of saplings are planted?

Under Mapathon, saplings being planted are native and medicinal plant species, instead of exotic flowering and fruiting trees. To improve the survival rate of the saplings, BBMP has decided to not plant them in the early stages.

"We are avoiding the plantation of saplings that are still very flexible and soft to touch. Instead, we are growing them in airbags till they reach a certain age and maturity before planting them in common spaces across the city.

The idea is to improve their chance of survival. These are saplings grown over six to seven years and thus have reached a certain maturity to survive harsh conditions," said an official from the Forest Department.

HC's stance on revision scope against discharge plea

The Karnataka High Court has established that revision scope against discharge applications is highly restricted, requiring the Court to evaluate only the evidence gathered by the Investigating Officer (IO) for sufficiency.

Justice HP Sandesh, whilst dismissing Dr Mohankumar M's petition, cited Supreme Court judgements stating, "The Court cannot conduct a mini trial and defence cannot be considered in a discharge application. Court has to only look into the material collected by the IO whether sufficient material is there or not."

The petitioner, listed as accused No 4, allegedly assisted accused No 1 in legitimising illegal funds by paying Rs 25 lakh for Dr C Anisha Roy's daughter's MD (Pediatric) studies. He faced charges under IPC Section 109 and Prevention of Corruption Act provisions. After his petition to quash proceedings was rejected by the HC, his subsequent discharge request at the trial court also failed.

The petitioner argued that as a doctor, he provided financial assistance to accused No 1's daughter for MD studies at MS Ramaiah Medical College, Bengaluru, transferring funds via RTGS on March 22, 2012. He maintained this was legitimate financial help, not abetment.

He emphasised that the payment went directly to the institution's bank account, came from his earnings, and was documented in bank records and tax returns. He denied receiving money from accused No 1. The prosecution countered that evidence showed sudden deposits in the petitioner's account, which weren't declared in tax returns.

The bench observed that the investigation was complete with a filed charge sheet. Despite the petitioner's admission of the Rs 25 lakh payment, evidence showed Rs 17,50,000 cash deposits to his account. The court noted that these defence arguments are unsuitable for discharge applications. The unexplained cash deposits of Rs 17,50,000 and Rs 9,95,000 were documented by investigators. The court rejected the petitioner's parity argument regarding discharged accused No 3 and No 5, citing lack of explanation for cash deposits. **BMB**

Chief ticket inspector arrested over 'govt exam scam'

The Vijayanagar Police on Saturday have arrested a chief ticket inspector from South Western Railway for allegedly deceiving youth by promising to help them pass competitive government exams in exchange for hefty sums of money.

The accused, identified as Govindaraju, a 49-year-old resident of Nagarbhavi, was arrested following a tip-off from an informer and a complaint filed by Police Sub-Inspector Bhimashankar Heruru.

According to the complaint, Govindaraju, through middlemen, contacted candidates for exams such as the Karnataka Administrative Services (KAS), PDO (Panchayat Development Officer), and Village Accountant. He claimed that for a fee, he could guarantee their success in these examinations. The victims were told that they would need to pay Rs 25 lakh for PDO exam and Rs 50 lakh for the KAS prelims.

The fraud was uncovered when PSIs Bheemashankar and Girish Kumar received intelligence about Govindaraju's dealings. Acting on the information, they set up surveillance on Saturday and apprehended him in Vijayanagar.

When confronted, Govindaraju tried to evade arrest but was caught by the officers.

During interrogation, Govindaraju was found in possession of four mobile phones wherein images of documents related to 46 candidates, including their names, examination details, and cheques, were found.

It was also revealed that he had obtained educational certificates from these candidates. The accused's fraudulent activities were not limited to this case.

The police found that he had been involved in similar scams, with the Central Crime Branch (CCB) having previously investigated his involvement in cheating scandals. **BMB**

KSDL employee dies by suicide

A 40-year-old employee of Karnataka Soaps and Detergents Limited (KSDL) ended his life on Saturday. The deceased, identified as Amrutha Siriyuru, was discovered dead at his residence in Muneshwara Block, Mahalakshmi Layout.

According to the police, Siriyuru was found hanging from a ceiling fan at his apartment. The apartment owner discovered the body in the evening and immediately informed the authorities. A death note was found in Siriyuru's hand, stating that he was responsible for his own death and that no one else was to blame.

The police have sent the death note for forensic analysis to the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) to confirm its authenticity. The body has been sent for a post-mortem examination, and a case of unnatural death has been registered by the Mahalakshmi Layout police. They have ruled out immediate foul play, but investigations are ongoing to determine if there were any external factors contributing to the incident.

Siriyuru, who had been living alone, had married his second wife in 2019. However, the couple had been living separately for some time and were involved in a divorce case, which is ongoing in court. The police suspect that the domestic issues might have played a significant role in his decision to take this extreme step. **BMB**

(If you or someone you know is having suicidal tendencies, please call Arogya Sahayavani at 104 for help)

CAG report flags stamp duty, lease period errors

Comptroller and Auditor General report reveals ₹13.33 crore shortfall due to incorrect stamp duty collection, lease period reckoning of mines; ₹34.08 lakh is recovered so far

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The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India has found that a sub-registrar collected stamp duty of 2-3% instead of 5%, thus causing a stamp duty and registration fee shortage of Rs 13.33 crore. The CAG report stated that an amount of Rs 34.08 lakh has been recovered so far, and further recovery is under progress.

The CAG found the sub-registrar of Sandur made the error of reckoning the lease period of mines separately instead of reckoning it from the date of initial grant as envisaged in the amendment. The CAG report stated that on being brought to notice, the Government replied that the District Registrar concerned has initiated action under Section 46A of the KS Act, 1957 and Section 80(A) of the Registration Act, 1908 and an amount of Rs 0.91 crore has been recovered in two cases.

According to the CAG report, the stamp duty on mining leases is levied as per Article 30(3) of the Karnataka Stamp Act, 1957 at different rates depending on the period of the lease. For periods up to 10, 20 and 30 years, stamp duty is levied at one, two and three percent of the average annual royalty, respectively. The registration fee is levied at 1% on the same amount on which the stamp duty is levied.

In 2015, the Central Government amended the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 by insertion of a new Section 8A, as per which all mining leases would be granted for a period of 50 years and all those leases that were already granted shall be deemed to have been granted for a period of 50 years. After this amendment, the leases that were initially granted for periods less than 50 years were extended up to 50 years by executing supplementary lease deeds.

File photo of mining hills in Sandur, Ballari district

> **"Sub-Registrar concerned has been placed under suspension. District Registrar concerned has cancelled licence of deed writer**
> – Government's reply to CAG

During the audit of the Office of the Sub-Registrar, Sandur, in July 2019, nine leases that were extended by executing supplementary lease deeds were noticed. In these cases, the existing periods of their leases were either 20 or 30 years which were to end between the years 2020 to 2037. However, due to execution of supplementary deeds based on the amendment, during 2016-17, these leases were extended up to the years 2029 to 2057, treating each lease as having been granted for a period of 50 years.

The CAG audit found the sub-registrar collecting the stamp duty of 2-3% on the average annual royalty instead of 5% on four times the average annual royalty.

Non-remittance of stamp duty and registration fee

The CAG audit noticed 181 cases of non-remittance of stamp duty and registration fee amounting to Rs 1.51 crore in Chitradurga. The fees were found to be actually paid less (as reflected in the treasury schedule) but shown to have been correctly paid in the challans attached to the documents.

Moreover, all such documents were drafted by a single deed writer. The CAG audit stated that the deed writer would collect the correct stamp duty and registration fee payable from the parties concerned and generate a challan and make payment through the Khajane portal for a partial amount only.

The Government replied to the CAG notice stating that the Sub-Registrar concerned has been placed under suspension and an inquiry is initiated and that the District Registrar concerned has cancelled the licence of the deed writer and filed a police complaint.

'Millennials and GenZ drive premium housing demand in Bengaluru'

Bengaluru's real estate market in 2024 was marked by significant activity and changing preferences among buyers. A trend was noticed largely amongst the millennials and Gen Z. According to Saurabh Garg, co-founder and CBO of NoBroker, the city witnessed a strong shift towards premium properties, particularly among millennials and Gen Z buyers.

"Key trends during the year highlight a growing preference for premium properties, driven largely by millennials and Gen Z buyers. There is a sizable chunk of these buyers that are inclined towards buying properties that have premium amenities that align with their aspirational lifestyle," said Garg.

Properties priced at Rs 1 crore and above were in high demand, with buyers increasingly seeking spacious layouts, modern designs, and homes located near work hubs and lifestyle conveniences. Developers responded to this trend by focusing on high-end residential projects, but this led to challenges in meeting the demand for affordable housing. "This growing preference for premium living pushed developers to focus on high-end residential projects. However, this shift created affordability challenges, leaving a noticeable demand-supply gap in the affordable housing segment," Garg noted.

The rising interest in luxury homes was fuelled by higher incomes, stock buybacks from successful tech companies and start-ups, and growth in sectors like technology, finance, and entrepreneurship. Many buyers viewed premium properties as both lifestyle upgrades and secure investments.

Steady rise in rental market

In addition to property sales, Bengaluru's rental market also saw steady growth, with average rental inflation across the city ranging from 7% to 8%. Areas like Hebbal and Koramangala recorded an 8% rise in rental rates, while Indiranagar, Whitefield, and Sarjapur saw increases of around 7%.

Garg explained that the delivery of new housing units helped reduce the mismatch between demand and supply. "Rental rates have stabilised and are unlikely to see significant increases or decreases in the near term," he said.

— Iffath Fathima

BM Trippin' Tales

Water's low, but spirit soars at Jog Falls

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Despite the absence of a roaring cascade due to reduced rainfall, Jog Falls is bustling with activity as thousands of tourists from across the country arrive to bid farewell to the year and welcome the New Year. This influx has significantly increased footfall in Jog and Kargal towns.

The weekend saw a particularly large crowd of visitors, with Saturday and Sunday drawing thousands to the falls. With educational trips in full swing during December and January, school children and teachers are arriving daily in buses to marvel at the natural wonder.

Most homestays, lodges, and tourism department guest houses around Jog Falls are fully booked, and the heavy tourist turnout is bringing brisk business to local shops and hotels. "This is my first time visiting Jog Falls, and I absolutely love the serene environment. Amid the hustle of city life, spending two days here with my family has been a refreshing experience," said Chaitra, a tourist from Bengaluru.

Facilities upgraded

The Jog Development Authority is accelerating its work to provide world-class facilities for tourists. In the coming days, Jog Falls is set to emerge as an internationally recognised destination. Nearby attractions like Sigandur, Keladi, Ikkeri, Varadahalli, and the Padmavati Temple are also seeing high footfall, as tourists explore religious and historical sites in the region. Luxury resorts and homestays between Talaguppa and Jog Falls are playing a crucial role in accommodating visitors, with premium suites at the Jungle Resort already fully booked.

Tourists are also enjoying safe water sports at the Talakalale backwaters, while boating facilities at Shirur Lake near the falls have become a major attraction. Visitors are flocking to other popular spots like "Raja Kallu" to savour the breathtaking beauty of the Sharavathi Valley. Meanwhile, the unique Chamundeshwari Temple, one of the region's only two-faced shrines, is attracting worshippers seeking blessings.

Jog Falls roaring in full glory this monsoon in August

Improved viewing experience

In response to previous restrictions barring front-facing views of Jog Falls from January 1 to March 15, the district administration has initiated the construction of a new viewing platform outside the restricted area. The new platform will provide a safe and picturesque vantage point for tourists. Additionally, visitors can enjoy closer views from the British Bungalow area in the Uttara Kannada district.

Speed devils, drunk drivers in police radar

In a major push to curb road hazards and enhance safety, the traffic police had launched a special week-long drive that went on till Sunday, targeting drunken driving, speeding, and dangerous wheeling. Officers from 50 traffic police stations across the city participated in the initiative, conducting checks on 95,179 vehicles. The drive resulted in the registration of 1,187 cases of drunk driving and 165 speeding violations, with fines totaling Rs.1.65 lakh.

The special operations also extended to the North Division on Monday, under the direction of the Joint Commissioner of Police, Traffic. Focusing on those driving under the influence of alcohol, the operation successfully registered 46 cases, marking a significant step in reducing traffic rule violations and accidents in the area.

In response to the growing number of incidents involving dangerous two-wheeler riders, the Traffic West Division conducted a special operation on December 28 and 29, targeting illegal wheeling. Acting on public reports and social media alerts, police identified and confiscated seven vehicles involved in dangerous stunts, including two at Kengeri and Batarayanpur. On the same day Shivajinagar Traffic Police also carried out a targeted operation on Venkataswamy Naidu Road, detecting and taking action against a two-wheeler rider engaging in wheeling.

Traffic Police officials said that the initiative would continue in the coming days with an aim to keep the streets safer and reduce accidents caused by speed violations and alcohol-related incidents. **— BMB**

Govt to challenge bail granted to actor Darshan

The Karnataka government has decided to challenge the High Court's decision on granting bail to Kannada actor Darshan Thoogudeepa and others accused in the Renukaswamy murder case.

Government sources said the state has sanctioned the filing of a special leave petition (SLP) before the Supreme Court. The petition aims to contest the high court's December decision on granting bail to the accused.

Siddarth Luthra, a senior advocate, has been appointed as a special counsel to represent the state in the case. The order also instructed the state public prosecutor to prepare the necessary documents for the SLP.

Darshan was initially released on interim bail on October 30, citing medical reasons, after spending 131 days in custody. The high court later granted him and Pavithra Gowda, the prime accused, regular bail on December 13. All other individuals named in the case have also been released on bail.

In September, Bengaluru police filed a comprehensive 3,991-page chargesheet in connection with the case.

Apart from Darshan (accused number two) and Gowda, the chargesheet includes several others: Pawan K (29), Raghavendra (43), Nandish (28), Jagadish (36), Anukumar (25), Ravi Shankar (32), Dhanraj D (27), Vinay V (38), Nagaraju (41), Laxman (54), Deepak (39), Pradosh (40), Karthik (27), Keshavamurthy (27), and Nikhil Nayak (21).

The charges stem from the murder of Renukaswamy, who was reportedly a fan of Darshan. He was murdered on June 9 for allegedly sending lewd messages to Gowda. **— PTI**

DK Suresh files name misuse plaint

Congress leader DK Suresh on Monday lodged a complaint with the police here seeking action against a woman who allegedly cheated some people by misusing his name.

The woman identified as Aishwarya Gowda and her husband Harish KN were arrested on a complaint by Vanitha Aithal, owner of Vaarahi World of Gold in Chandra Layout in the city.

Aishwarya Gowda borrowed 14.660 kg of gold from Aithal but failed to return it. She had gained Aithal's trust by claiming to be the sister of former MP D K Suresh. Suresh is the younger brother of Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar

In his written complaint, Suresh stated, "It has been reported in the media that Mrs. Aishwarya Gowda alias Navyasri has cheated many people by misusing my name." **— BMB**

Love lost: Man blows self up

A 21-year-old man in Mandya died after he allegedly blew himself up with a gelatin stick in front of the house of a girl he was in love with after her family rejected him, police said on Monday. According to police, Ramachandra was in relationship with a minor girl. Last year, he was booked under Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act after he eloped with the girl. He was arrested in the case and spent three months in jail as an under-trial. **— PTI**

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

(BENGALURU DIVISION)

LiFE Lifestyle for Environment

REVISED PUBLIC TIME TABLE

Scan the above QR Code

SWR has announced the release of the Public Timetable-21, effective from 1st January 2025. Passengers can access the revised train timings by visiting the official website: **https://swr.indianrailways.gov.in.** Alternatively, passengers can also obtain detailed train timings by dialling 139 or Scan the above QR code.

Revised timings of important preponed trains over Bengaluru Division

Sl. No.	Train No/From-To	Station	Existing PTT-A/D	Revised PTT A/D	W.E.F. JCO
1	16315-Mysuru-Thiruvananthapuram North Express	KSR Bengaluru	16.35/16.50	16.25/16.40	01.01.2025
		BengaluruCant.	17.00/17.02	16.50/16.52	
		Krishnarajapuram	17.13/17.15	17.03/17.05	
		Whitefield	17.24/17.25	17.14/17.15	
		Bangarapet Jn.	18.03/18.05	17.50/17.52	
		Kuppam	18.34/18.36	18.20/18.22	
2	16232 Mysuru - Cuddalore Port Express	KSR Bengaluru	18.45/19.00	18.50/19.00	01.01.2025
		Carmelaram	19.39/19.40	19.29/19.30	
		Hosur	20.08/20.10	19.58/20.00	
		Dharmapuri	21.38/21.40	21.28/21.30	
3	17212 Yesvantpur Machilipatnam TRI-WEEKLY Express	Yesvantpur	14.20	13.15	02.01.2025
		Yelahanka	14.38/14.40	13.34/13.36	
		Hindupur	15.53/15.55	14.40/14.42	
		Penukonda	16.44/16.45	15.09/15.10	
		Sri Satya Sai Prashanthi Nilayam	17.13/17.15	15.29/15.31	
4	16235 Tuticorin-Mysuru Express	Dharmapuri	02.48/02.50	02.43/02.45	01.01.2025
		Palakkodu	03.09/03.10	03.02/03.03	
		Hosur	04.38/04.40	04.28/04.30	
		Carmelaram	05.09/05.10	05.01/05.02	
		Bengaluru Cant.	05.35/05.40	05.36/05.38	
		KSR Bengaluru	07.00/07.15	06.05/06.15	
		Kengeri	07.34/07.35	06.35/06.36	
		Bidadi	07.49/07.50	06.51/06.52	
		Ramanagaram	08.00/08.01	07.02/07.03	
		Chennapatna	08.11/08.12	07.13/07.14	
		Maddur	08.28/08.29	07.30/07.31	
		Mandya	08.46/08.47	07.48/07.49	
5	16536 Pandharpur-Mysuru Express	Yesvantpur	06.58/07.00	07.08/07.10	01.01.2025
		KSR Bengaluru	07.50/08.00	07.40/07.50	
		Kengeri	08.19/08.20	08.10/08.11	
		Bidadi	08.34/08.35	08.24/08.25	
		Ramanagaram	08.45/08.46	08.39/08.40	
		Channapatna	08.56/08.57	08.50/08.51	
		Maddur	09.11/09.12	09.06/09.07	
		Mandya	09.29/09.30	09.24/09.25	
6	12649 Yesvantpur - Hazrat Nizamuddin Karnataka Sampark Kranthi Express	Yesvantpur	13.50	13:00	01.01.2025
		Tumakuru	14.43/14.45	13.43/13.45	

PUB/670/AAS/PRB/SWR/2024-25

www.swr.indianrailways.gov.in | South Western Railway - SWR | sw_railways | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

PICS: KAUSHIK JN

All set

Officials and workers were gearing up for New Year's Eve near MG Road on Monday; A mobile command and control centre on standby

This NYE, better behave

Metro plans to crack down on anyone creating ruckus

| Sridhar.Vivan
@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

As people prepare for New Year celebrations, police and other authorities are urging individuals to avoid drunk driving and opt for public transportation or cabs instead. Transport corporations have stated they will allow intoxicated passengers but will take action if anyone causes a disturbance. A senior Metro official shared, "We typically see large crowds gather at MG Road, so we are providing Metro extension trains and ensuring security is in place. We urge people to maintain discipline and avoid any misbehaviour."

BBMP will establish first aid booths across the city on December 31 to ensure public safety during New Year celebrations, according to BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath. "Our focus is on improved street lighting, ensuring trash on the roads is cleaned up, and providing first aid," he said. "We will create first aid booths and deploy doctors to offer assistance. Last year, we set up camps on the roads, and we will continue this initiative this year as well." He also stressed that police permission is mandatory for any public celebration. "Parks will be closed, and we will not grant permission for events there. If it's on the roads, it falls under police jurisdiction. We will provide full cooperation to the police to ensure a safe New Year celebration."

Metro stations are expecting heavy rush, especially at MG Road

Cauvery backwaters barred for New year revellers

As the excitement for New Year 2025 builds, resorts, hotels, farmhouses, restaurants, and clubs have become the hotspots of the festivities, with bookings in full swing. Many accommodations are already fully booked, leaving last-minute customers facing higher entry fees. Resorts on the outskirts of the City and in neighbouring districts are in high demand. Police are on alert to prevent the misuse of New Year parties for illegal activities such as drug abuse and rave parties.

Mandya police have banned entry of places which are on the banks or river. "To ensure safety and avoid disturbances, entry to some tourist hotspots along the Cauvery River, such as Muthathi, Bheemeshwari, and nearby forest areas, has been restricted from 6 AM on December 31 to 6 AM on January 2. Similar restrictions are in place for other popular locations like Balmuri, Edamuri, and KRS backwaters," said, Mallikarjun Baladandi,

Tourist hotspots like Melukote's Dhanushkoti and Kalyanis, Srirangapatna's Karighatta, and Pandavapura's Kunti Betta and Kere Thonnur are expected to attract large crowds. However, officials have imposed access restrictions in areas prone to crowding or environmental damage.

Hotels and restaurants are also joining the celebrations with special discounts and combo offers. Some even provide a complimentary cake with each booking. Non-vegetarian restaurants, in particular, have announced attractive deals to draw more customers.

In addition to the celebrations, authorities are ensuring the safety of the public and natural heritage. SP Baladandi urged everyone to celebrate responsibly, stating, "People should enjoy themselves without causing trouble to others. We have taken necessary precautions to maintain peace and order during the New Year festivities."

Check out parking, traffic restrictions for today

Police have mandated the following restrictions for New year revelry:

1. PROHIBITION OF VEHICLES IN CBD

- Brigade Road / MG Road / Residency Road
- Entry of all vehicles, except police and emergency service vehicles, will be prohibited on the following roads from 8 pm on December 31 to 2 am on January 1
- MG Road (Anil Kumble Circle to Residency Road Junction near Mayo Hall)
- Brigade Road (Cauvery Emporium Junction to Opera Junction)
- Church Street (Brigade Road Junction to Museum Road Junction)
- Museum Road (M.G. Road Junction to Old Madras Bank Road [SBI] Circle)
- Rest House Road (Museum Road Junction to Brigade Road Junction)
- Residency Cross Road to Residency Road Junction (Shankar Nag Theatre)

2. PARKING BAN IN CBD

- From 4 pm on December 31 to 3 am on January 1, parking will be prohibited on the following roads:
- MG Road (Anil Kumble Circle to Trinity Circle)
- Brigade Road (Arts & Crafts Junction to Opera Junction)
- Church Street (Brigade Road Junction to St. Marks Road Junction)
- Rest House Road (Brigade Road Junction to Museum Road Junction)
- Museum Road (MG Road Junction to Old Madras Bank Road [SBI] Circle)

3. PARKING RESTRICTIONS

- No parking in Indiranagar 100 Feet Road (Old Madras Road Junction to Dommaluru Flyover Junction)
- Indiranagar 12th Main Road (80 Feet Road to Indiranagar Double Road Junction)
- Parking restricted (both sides) ITPL Main Road (B Narayanpura Shell Petrol Bunk to Garudacharpalya Decathlon)
- Hoodi Metro Station to Graphite India Junction
- ITPL Medicover to Big Bazaar Junction
- Koramangala

4. TRAFFIC RESTRICTED ROADS

- Movement of all vehicles will be restricted between National Games Village and UCO Bank Junction on both sides from 11 pm to 2 am.
- From Sukh Sagar Junction to Microland Junction on YD Math Road in Koramangala.
- Parking Prohibited Areas:
- 80 Feet Road (from UCO Bank Junction to NGV Back Gate Junction)
- Someshwara Temple Road (from Cemetery Cross to Microland Junction)

5. FLYOVERS BARRED

From 11 pm on December 31 to 6 am on January 1, all vehicles will be prohibited on all flyovers in the city (except the elevated expressway leading to the KIA airport) to prevent accidents and mishaps. Two-wheelers will be prohibited from 10 pm on December 31 to 6 am on January 1 on the KIA International Airport Elevated Expressway

6. DRUNK DRIVING TESTS

Police siad that a special drive will be conducted against drunk driving and the use of narcotic drugs throughout the night, with checkpoints set up at various locations. Strict action will be taken against offenders. Strict action will be taken against motorcyclists who drive recklessly, engage in wheeling/drag racing, or cause disturbances. Public is requested to report such incidents to the police helpline (112).

7. TOWING

Police said that vehicles parked in restricted areas or impeding traffic will be towed away. Meanwhile, to avoid heavy goods vehicle movement in the CBD area, diversions will be implemented from 8 pm on December 31 to 6 am on January 1 at various junctions including Old Udaya TV Junction, Khodays Junction, Townhall, Basaveshwara Circle, and others.

A look at the year gone by — in our best stories: When readers speak, BM listens, and so do officials, who are quick to act on issues highlighted in its pages. Here is a look at our pick of some of the most pressing stories

Bangalore Mirror: Your voice, our vision

Quenching thirst

The story "High & Dry," published on March 21, 2024, brought attention to the severe water shortage faced by orphans at Laggere. Its impact was significant, as it sparked the interest of many philanthropists, who were moved by the situation. As a result, they have come forward to donate funds and offer free water supply to address the crisis. This coverage has played a crucial role in mobilising support for the orphans' urgent needs.

BangaloreMirror
High & dry
Closure of old age home imminent if water crisis persists

Not so green

The story "Non-native species & bad timing: BDA's green effort falls flat," published on December 1, 2024, highlighted how the BDA irresponsibly planted non-native species that served no ecological purpose. The coverage led to a positive outcome, with the BDA withdrawing the planting of non-native species at BSK 6th Stage and making way for the planting of native species instead.

BangaloreMirror
Non-native species & bad timing: BDA's greening effort falls flat
BSK 6th Stage residents urge authorities to involve locals and focus on native species conservation efforts after recent saplings fail to survive

Working class heroes

Bangalore Mirror examined the lives of the working class, particularly domestic workers, who are often interacted with on a daily basis, and explored the discrimination they face in order to meet their basic needs. This story emphasised the urgent need for the state to intervene and enforce provisions that protect these workers, often from marginalised backgrounds, from both social and economic exploitation.

BangaloreMirror
ALL WORK, WON'T PAY

The severance

This article shed light on 'Hikikomori syndrome,' a condition marked by extreme social withdrawal, primarily seen in Japan among individuals aged 12 to 30 in Bengaluru. BM focussed on case studies by researchers at NIMHANS in Bengaluru, where an 18-year-old displayed similar symptoms, signalling a potential emergence of this syndrome in India.

BangaloreMirror
Researchers shine light on 'Hikikomori syndrome'
No official cases in India yet, but NIMHANS researchers find case where boy seeks help for social withdrawal and excessive online activity

Bad air day

This news was important as it highlighted the underutilisation of crucial funds allocated by the Centre for improving air quality in Bengaluru. With only a small percentage of the allocated funds being used, it raised concerns about the city's commitment to addressing its air pollution issues and the potential missed opportunities for improving public health and the environment.

BangaloreMirror
Bengaluru has used only tiny fraction of National Clean Air Program funds and the result is: Particulate matter in city's air on the rise since 2020
IT IS UNFAIR TREATMENT
Traffic snarls and high emission levels play havoc with city's air

Animal instinct

This news highlights a critical issue affecting wildlife protection in Karnataka. With over 90% of forest watcher posts vacant, the state's wildlife is at significant risk from poaching and other threats. The shortage of frontline staff in the Karnataka Forest Department (KFD) undermines efforts to safeguard protected areas, making it an urgent matter for authorities to address.

BangaloreMirror
Who will watch the forests?
Wildlife at risk with just 185 of 1,892 posts of forest watchers filled in state

Hi-tech commute

This news was important as it highlighted a significant step towards modernising the state's transportation system, enhancing security, and streamlining verification processes for driving licenses and vehicle registration certificates through the introduction of QR code and chip-embedded smart cards.

BangaloreMirror
BMTC had its last recruitment drive in 2016 and each year around 3% of workforce retires; its existing 28,283 employees have to do overtime to maintain services
THE EXTRA MILE
2,500 conductors to be hired, but they need to undergo training

Not right at all

This news shed light on the irony that, during the celebration of Human Rights Week, the State Human Rights Commission was operating without a head. Activists and advocates emphasized the necessity of having a leader for the commission to function effectively. Bangalore Mirror was the only publication to highlight this issue bringing attention to a critical gap in human rights oversight.

BangaloreMirror
Human rights commission functioning without head since Feb this year; vacancies in key posts have also brought law, administration and investigation wing of panel to standstill
RIGHT OR WRONG?
Karnataka has recorded 7,587 violation cases in 2024

History is history

This news brought to light the loss of a significant piece of Bengaluru's heritage at the Cantonment Railway Station, a landmark with a rich 162-year history. The demolition of the iconic arches at Platform 1, which were originally meant to be preserved in the station's redevelopment, symboliSes a growing disregard for the city's historical structures in the name of progress.

BangaloreMirror
In sudden change of plan without consultation, age-old arches on Platform 1 of Cantonment Railway Station demolished during upgradation work
ARC OF HISTORY TURNS INTO DEBRIS
Locals wonder if discussions could have helped preserve historic building
THEN

Breathing uneasy

This news highlighted a critical issue affecting both public health and the environment in Bengaluru. The city's crumbling roads, riddled with potholes and peeling asphalt, not only pose a danger to commuters but also contribute significantly to air pollution. A report reveals that dust from these damaged roads accounts for a staggering 16.9% of the city's air pollution, exacerbating the already high PM10 levels.

BangaloreMirror
Potholes don't just pose accident risk; they also contribute big-time to city's air pollution, study has revealed. As vehicles move over the pits, plumes of dust cloud the air we breathe
POLLUTION PITS LEAVING CITY DONE & DUSTED
PM10 levels high in some areas, CSTEP study shows

Bad dates

This article exposed the widespread issue of fake profiles on dating apps, with a shocking 78% of women reporting encounters with them. By shedding light on this problem, it empowered users to recognise and avoid scammers, while emphasising the emotional and financial dangers of catfishing. Moreover, the article ignited an important conversation about the ethics of online dating and the responsibility of platforms to ensure safer environments for all users.

BangaloreMirror
Things are not always what they seem
78% of women surveyed reveal they have encountered fake profiles on dating apps

No connection

This article highlighted the critical issue of the East Division Cyber Crime Police Station's phone numbers being inaccessible, which has several important implications as it prevented citizens from reporting cybercrimes in a timely manner, delaying investigations and escalating losses. It also pointed to the difficulties faced by law enforcement in keeping up with technological changes.

BangaloreMirror
As cyber crime police station's numbers all remain inaccessible, police officials clarify that reason behind this is transition and transfer of numbers; citizens say timely updates would have helped
OUT OF ORDER

Atul Subhash case: Wife shouldn't be allowed to use child as tool to get bail, says counsel

The accused wife should not be allowed to use the child as a tool to get bail in the court, said Akash Jindal, counsel for Atul Subhash, an automobile company employee, who committed suicide alleging his wife demanded Rs 3 crore for divorce settlement.

The bail matter of the accused wife of Atul Subhash is slated to be heard on January 4 in the Bengaluru court. The bail application from the accused Nikita Singhania was registered on Monday and the counsel for her and other accused argued how and why the bail should not be granted to the accused persons in the case.

The counsel for the Atul Subhash family further stated, "The criminal nature is accumulating to this procedure and she can't take advantage of the child and we have sought total custody of the child."

"Our stand was that the crime, which they have committed is very heinous, additionally we have filed a habeas corpus petition before the Supreme Court where the court has passed directions to the three states UP, Karnataka and Haryana for ascertaining the whereabouts of the kid and once the child is found, accordingly will pass directions for considering the custody of the kid," he said.

"Why the 4-year-old child was staying away from his mother and he was in the hostel? The grandparents are worried about the grandkid," he said.

Pavan Kumar Modi, the father of Atul Subhash, stated that the family is worried about the safety of Atul's child. If the court grants bail to Atul's wife, she can attack the child and endanger his life.

"If she can drive my son to commit suicide, she can also do the same to the kid as well," he added.

"My grandson was ATM to her. She got money on the pretext of taking care of him. She approached the High Court demanding Rs 20,000 to Rs 40,000. She went on to appeal for Rs 80,000.

Even after this, she went on demanding more money. Hence, we have approached the Supreme Court for the custody of the child as he is safe with us," he stated.

Bikas Kumar, brother of Atul Subhash, stated that the family is happy about the investigation by the police department. "The police supported us and we have fulfilled their requirements and they are carrying out the investigation. We have to get custody of the child and we have informed our advocate about this. The matter is before the Supreme Court," he added.

When asked about the child's whereabouts, he said that they do not know about the whereabouts of Atul's son. "We are waiting for the January 7 hearing in the Supreme Court in this regard," he stated.

Subhash, who was working with an automobile company in Bengaluru, allegedly committed suicide as a demand of Rs 3 crore was made for a divorce settlement. He ended his life at his apartment in the early hours of December 9, leaving behind a 90-minute video and a 40-page death note, explaining how harassment by his wife Nikita Singhania and her family forced him to take the extreme step. **IANS**

State govt stands by Priyank Kharge; hands over contractor suicide case to CID

Karnataka Home Minister G Parameshwara on Monday announced that the case regarding the suicide of a contractor following alleged threats to his life and extortion by an aide of Minister for RDPR, IT and BT, Priyank Kharge, has been handed over to the Criminal Investigation Department (CID).

Speaking to reporters in Bengaluru, Parameshwara said, "There is no need for Minister Priyank Kharge to resign. Unnecessarily, his name is being brought up, and demands for his resignation are being made."

He further stated that making unnecessary accusations against ministers is not appropriate.

According to department officials, Minister Priyank Kharge's name is not mentioned in the suicide note.

He said that attempts were being made to tarnish the government's image by dragging the minister's name into the matter.

"To ensure the truth comes out, the case has been handed over to the CID after discussions with the

Chief Minister," he declared.

Home Minister Parameshwara further clarified that any action would be taken based on the findings of the investigation.

Responding to the BJP's demand to hand over the case to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), Parameshwara said, "Not all cases can be handed over to the CBI. The CID is competent enough.

Haven't we received investigation reports from the CID in several cases? We won't consider everything the BJP says.

"If they give constructive suggestions or advice, we will consider it. But if they unnecessarily politicise everything, we won't entertain it."

Regarding allegations against Minister for Women and Child Welfare Laxmi Hebbalkar, against whom BJP MLC CT Ravi reportedly used derogatory language, he said, "The truth about this case must also come out. The CID has begun its work in this regard."

The minister also urged the public to celebrate the New Year responsibly and safely.

"I have held meetings with senior officials and instructed them to take necessary precautionary measures. Adequate arrangements have been made to ensure the celebrations do not cause inconvenience to anyone. I request the public to celebrate the New Year peacefully," he appealed.

Sachin, a 26-year-old contractor on Thursday committed suicide in Karnataka's Kalaburagi district following alleged threats to his life and extortion by an aide of Priyank Kharge. **Agencies**

It is time for payback

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the agreement. According to documents available with Bangalore Mirror, the police department engaged Sterling CCTV Solutions, AIV Tech and Kriti Technologies to set up CCTVs on MG Road, Brigade Road, and Church Street for December 31 last year.

The contractors submitted the bill to the Assistant Commissioner of Police (Cubbon Park) on January 9, 2024. The total bill amount was Rs 15,83,560. However, the file pertaining to the bill remained at the ACP office till April 30, 2024, due to the reasons best known for the contractors as well as the staff working at the ACP Office.

The said file was sent to the Deputy Commissioner of Police (Central) on April 30, 2024 from the ACP Office. Later the file was sent to the Commissioner of Police Office and the same was sent to the Additional Director General of Police Office on September 10, 2024.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Administration) Padmini Sahoo wrote a letter on December 20, 2024 to the Additional Director General of Police to sanction the amount for the CCTV cameras (157) hired on December 31, 2023.

Meanwhile, Vinod Kumar of Sterling CCTV Solutions told BM that he has become bankrupt due to the delay in police authorities clearing the file pertaining to installation of CCTV cameras.

"I had to borrow money from others to pay wages to the workers. Suppliers of CCTV cameras have stopped supplying to me as I failed to pay the amount due to the delay in getting money from the police department.

I was the owner of a company on December 31, 2023 and now I have become a private company employee by December 31, 2024," Vinod Kumar said.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Administration) Padmini Sahoo told BM that all arrangements have been made to clear the bill amount for installing the CCTV cameras last NYE.

"The Deputy Commissioner of Police (Central) is looking into the matter. There were some technical issues which are the cause for the delay," the DCP (Administration) said.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Central) explained that there was a delay in payment due to a delay in giving the details on the number of CCTV cameras installed. "We have taken measures to clear the amount for installing the CCTV cameras," the DCP said.

No students and no teachers

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the rise in single-teacher schools contradicts this mandate. Teachers in these schools are burdened with administrative responsibilities while simultaneously managing multiple grades. This impacts their ability to provide the mandated learning hours per class, as noted by the CAG.

State government's response

In its response to the CAG report, the state government stated that single-teacher schools were assigned based on low student enrollment, with one teacher allocated for schools with up to 11 students. The government has implemented the Nali-Kali (Learn-Play) system to manage multi-grade teaching. However, the CAG observed that single-teacher schools fail to meet RTE standards, limiting students' access to quality education, personal attention, and support, which ultimately hinders their academic progress.

An educationist said, "The shortage of teachers in schools has multiple adverse impacts on education. When teachers are burdened with dual responsibilities of teaching and administrative tasks, it significantly disrupts classroom learning, leading to a substantial loss in the quality of education delivered to students.

This imbalance often discourages parents from enrolling their children in such schools, resulting in a steady decline in student enrollment. Furthermore, the lack of resources and personalised attention for students severely hampers the overall quality of education.

Over time, this deterioration not only affects learning outcomes but also pushes schools towards closure due to low attendance and poor performance."

Sangeeta K, an education expert, added that primary education should lay a strong foundation for children.

"Single-teacher schools deter children from pursuing education right from the start. The government must urgently fill vacant teacher posts, strengthen school infrastructure, and ensure quality education for underprivileged children.

The state must act swiftly to address these challenges and secure the future of Karnataka's young learners."

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personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Gopalakrishna Acharya Matpady R/o Igiri, 1st main, 2nd cross, RT nagar, Tumakuru 572103 present camp Bengaluru have changed my name to Gopalakrishna Acharya Matapady Affidavit Dt.30/12/2024 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, PRAVEENKUMARA B, S/o Basavarajachar D O, R/at No.398, Madhumithra Layout, H R General Store, Ward No.05, Anekal Taluk, Jigani, Bangalore-560105 have changed my name to PRAVEENAKUMARA B. vide affidavit dt: 28.12.2024 before notary B.Chitra, B.lore.

I Anita Aravindakshan W/O, Keezhpada Aravindakshan R/o No. 12, Sabari Layout, Near Indian Bank, Kereguddadahalli, Chikkabanavara Post, Bangalore 560090 have changed my name to Anita Aravind.

I, Surabhi D Koushik R/o #116 Pillegowda Layout Ramachamdrapuram Jalahalli B'luru-560013 have changed my minor son name from Vivaan D Yadav to Vivaan D for all purposes.

I, Umadevi P W/o V Nagaraj R/o No: 22, 32 Cross, Bhavani Housaing Colony, Banashankari 3Rd Stage, B'luru- 560085 have changed my name to Umadevi B P.

I Shakuntala G W/O, Late Jayasheelan S R/o 20/144 Govt High School Road Kumbalgodu, Bangalore 560074 have changed my name to Shashikala G.

LOST & FOUND

I Babu r/o # 3, 2nd cross Shivalinhiay Colony Murgeshpalya HAL Post Bangalore hereby declare that i have lost Original sale Deed Document No-245 /91-93 in Jeevan Bheema nagar. Finder please contact-7760964389

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HEALTH TIP: Egg whites help shrink pores, control excess oil, and reduce the appearance of acne

Cucumbers are rich in water, antioxidants, and vitamins that help soothe the skin while controlling excess oil production

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IS IT A TOTAL WIPE-OUT? NOT QUITE

Science behind why disinfectants only kill 99.9% of germs

Have you ever wondered why most disinfectants indicate they kill 99.9% or 99.99% of germs, but never promise to wipe out all of them? Perhaps the thought has crossed your mind mid-way through cleaning your kitchen or bathroom. Surely, in a world where science is able to do all sorts of amazing things, someone would have invented a disinfectant that is 100% effective? The answer to this conundrum requires understanding a bit of microbiology and a bit of mathematics.

What is a disinfectant?

A disinfectant is a substance used to kill or inactivate bacteria, viruses and other microbes on inanimate objects. There are millions of microbes on surfaces and objects in our domestic environment. While most microbes are not harmful (and some are even good for us) a small proportion can make us sick.

Although disinfection can include physical interventions such as heat treatment or use of UV light, typically when we think of disinfectants we are referring to the use of chemicals to kill microbes on surfaces.

Chemical disinfectants often contain active ingredients such as alcohols, chlorine compounds and hydrogen peroxide which can target vital components of different microbes to kill them.

> **A disinfectant is a substance used to kill or inactivate bacteria, viruses and other microbes of which there are millions in our domestic set-ups**

The maths

In the past few years we've all become familiar with the concept of exponential growth in the context of the spread of COVID cases.

This is where numbers grow at an ever-accelerating rate, which can lead to an explosion in the size of something very quickly. For example, if a colony of 100 bacteria doubles every hour, in 24 hours' time the population of bacteria would be more than 1.5 billion.

Conversely, the killing or inactivating of microbes follows a logarithmic decay pattern, which is essentially the opposite of exponential growth. Here, while the number of microbes decreases over time, the rate of death becomes slower as the number of microbes becomes smaller.

For example, if a particular disinfectant kills 90% of bacteria every minute, after one minute, only 10% of the original bacteria will remain. After the next minute, 10% of that remaining 10% (or 1% of the original amount) will remain, and so on.

Because of this logarithmic decay pattern, it's not possible to ever claim you can kill 100% of any microbial population. You can only ever scientifically say that you are able to reduce the microbial load by a proportion of the initial population. This is why most disinfectants sold for domestic use indicate they kill 99.9% of germs. Products such as hand sanitisers and disinfectant wipes that also often purport to kill 99.9% of germs, follow the same principle.

Real-world implications

As with a lot of science, things get a bit more complicated in the real world than they are in the laboratory. There are a number of other factors to consider when assessing how well a disinfectant is likely to remove microbes from a surface.

One of these factors is the size of the initial microbial population that you're trying to get rid of. That is, the more contaminated a surface is, the harder the disinfectant needs to work to eliminate the microbes.

If for example you were to start off with only 100 microbes on a surface or object, and you removed 99.9% of these using a disinfectant, you could have a lot of confidence that you have effectively removed all the microbes from that surface or object (called sterilisation).

In contrast, if you have a large initial microbial population of hundreds of millions or billions of microbes contaminating a surface, even reducing the microbial load by 99.9% may still mean there are potentially millions of microbes remaining.

Time is a key factor that determines how effectively microbes are killed. So exposing a highly contaminated surface to disinfectant for a longer period is one way to ensure you kill more of the microbial population.

This is why if you look closely at the labels of many common household disinfectants, they will often suggest that to disinfect you should apply the product then wait a specified time before wiping clean. So always consult the label on the product you're using.

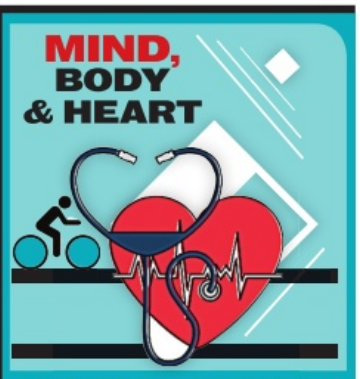
Other factors such as temperature, humidity and the type of surface also influence how well a disinfectant works outside the lab. Similarly, microbes in the real world may be either more or less sensitive to disinfection than those used for testing in the lab.

Disinfectants are one part infection control

The sensible use of disinfectants plays an important role in our daily lives in reducing our exposure to pathogens (microbes that cause illness). They can therefore reduce our chances of getting sick.

The fact disinfectants can't be shown to be 100% effective from a scientific perspective in no way detracts from their importance in infection control. But their use should always be complemented by other infection control practices, such as hand washing, to reduce the risk of infection.

(By Hassan Vally, Deakin University, The Conversation)



All you need to know about...

Find love IRL

Old-fashioned way
What if we told you there was an alternative to your usual swipe-right-to-match process? A method that about meeting people the old-fashioned way? Here are some tips to find 'your person'!

Take A Chance
Tired of just making eye contact with the cute guy you pass in the aisles while getting to your desk at work? TAKE A CHANCE! Smile, drop a casual 'hey', maybe even invite him to hang out at the coffee machine – who knows what could happen!

Step Out More
From your local dance class to a speed event dating and even a volunteer group for puppies, make a conscious effort to step out and meet people with similar interests. Take time to seek out opportunities that offer new relationships, connections and experiences – the right one for you may just be around the corner.

Go On Blind Dates
Often, the people closest to you know you better than you know yourself, which puts them in the perfect position to play matchmaker. Blind dates are the perfect set-up to make new connections, meet interesting people and have fun. The best part? They work like a charm for the ones who are too busy or 'married to work'.

Try Talking To Strangers
Whether you're at a party or just out with friends, approaching strangers can be a bit nerve-wracking. Instead of grabbing them by the arm and bringing them into your world, which could get hella awkward hella fast – we suggest finding something that could lead to a naturally engaging conversation. Ditch the not-so-funny joke you heard at work, maintain some space and make sure to let your confidence shine through. **– Femina**

MIRRORLIGHTS

Oestrogen may be promoting binge drinking in females: Study

Ladies, blame your levels of oestrogen -- female sex hormone -- for making you binge on alcohol, according to a preclinical study in mice on Monday.

Scientists at Weill Cornell Medicine showed that the hormone oestrogen regulates binge drinking in females, causing them to "pregame" or binge. The study, published in the journal Nature Communications, establishes that circulating oestrogen increases binge alcohol consumption in females and contributes to known sex differences in this behaviour.

"We know a lot less about what drives alcohol drinking behaviour in females because most studies of alcohol use have been done in males," said senior author Dr. Kristen Pleil, Associate Professor of pharmacology at the varsity.

Yet recent studies indicate that women have increased their heavy alcohol consumption more than men. This overindulgence is set to make them more susceptible to the negative health effects of alcohol than males, said Pleil.

"Many studies show this pattern of drinking enhances alcohol's harmful effects," said the expert, noting that the findings could lead to novel approaches for treating alcohol use disorder in women.

To assess oestrogen's potential involvement, the team first monitored the hormone levels throughout the oestrous cycle (similar to the menstrual cycle in women) of female mice and then served them alcohol.

The results showed that a high level of circulating oestrogen in women drives them to drink much more than on days when their oestrogen is low. **—IANS**

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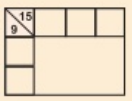
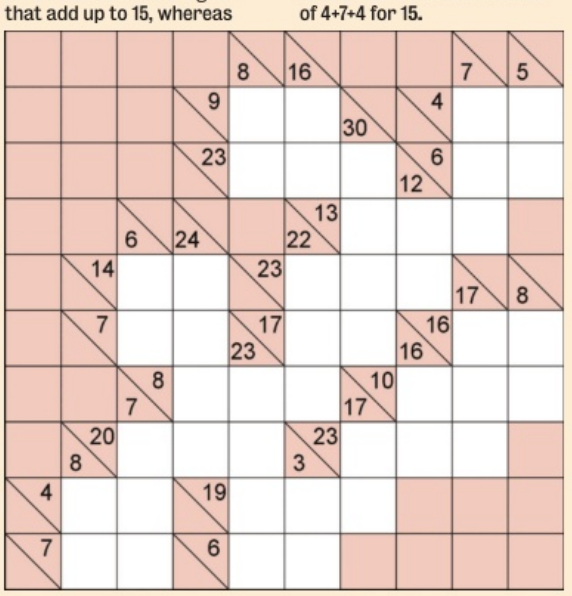
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

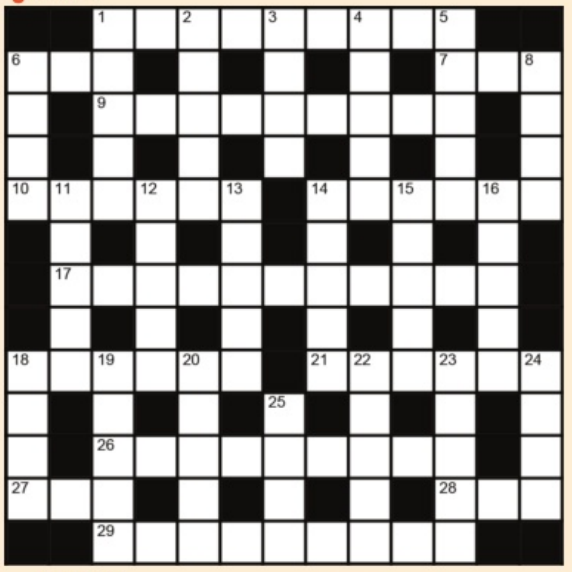


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 December festival (9)
6 Take On Me group (1-2)
7 Quid pro ___ / thing given as compensation? (3)
9 Rice noodle delicacy of Karnataka (4,5)
10 Gloss or lustre (6)
14 Robinson Crusoe's man (6)
17 Articulating precisely (11)
18 Greek letters (6)
21 Feeling intense anger (6)
26 Cutting deeply (9)
27 Chinese code of behaviour (3)
28 PFC's mail drop (3)
29 Famous but for bad deeds (9)

DOWN

1 Man-made waterway (5)
2 ___ out / finds and gets rid of? (5)
3 Dips in liquid (4)
4 Measuring device (5)
5 Team (5)
6 As soon as possible, acronym (4)
8 Sole (4)
11 Tubby or very fat (5)
12 A North American eskimo (5)
13 Pawns (5)
14 Natural ability (5)
15 Cake topping (5)
16 Inert gas of helium family (5)
18 Dexterous (4)
19 Show one knows (3,2)
20 Secret ____ / a spy? (5)
22 Texas mission? (5)
23 Tiny amounts? (5)
24 A Greek sandwich (4)
25 Cake decorator (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: C EQUALS P

CRBCUR DRIL DB QBOMRD DGRXO LJDX_RV KJD ORPRP-KRO DGRXO OXMGDV.

Linemaro

What you got going on today? Can I be included in your plans?

Mindchow

With a gentleman I am always a gentleman and a half, and with a fraud I try to be a fraud and a half

Joke of the day

I went to the Canary Islands, and I didn't see any canaries.
I also went to the Virgin Islands, and believe it or not, I didn't see any canaries there either

Loop

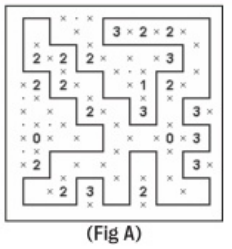
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

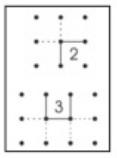
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)

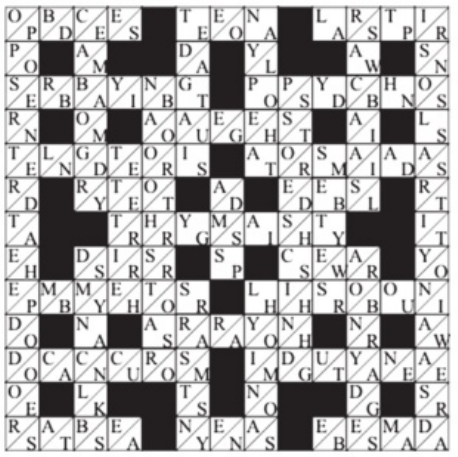


(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed

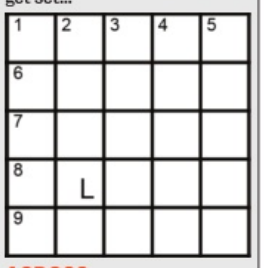
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

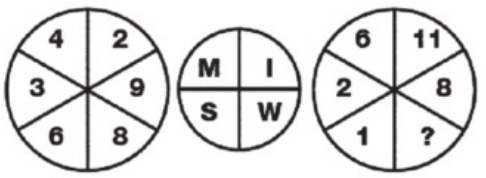
1 Reaps; 6 Me cob; 7 Marie; 8 L cake; 9 Mrs Ku

DOWN

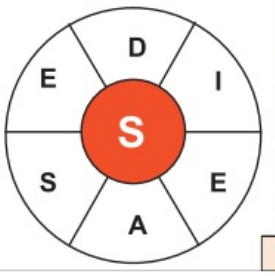
1 Marcs; 2 Ilo up; 3 Rem me; 4 Back A; 5 Esker

Mensapuzzle

Which number replaces the question mark and completes the wheel?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

05 Average; 06 Good; 08 Outstanding

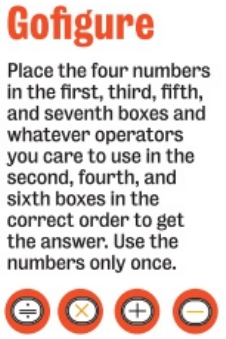
SudokuChallenge

	7			4			9	
3			7		2			6
			3		1			
		1	8		4	9		
	5	8				4	7	
		7	1		5	8		
			5		3			
8			9		6			7
	6			2			8	

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



Easy = 21

2 5 7 7

Medium = 32

2 3 3 4

Hard = 26

1 5 6 4

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

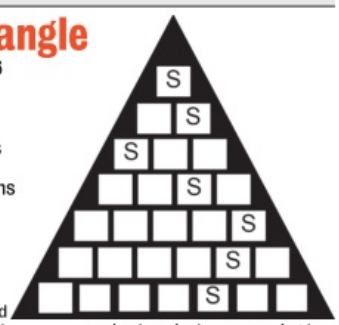
Differences: 1. Thumb is moved. 2. Foot is not showing. 3. Paper is moved. 4. Glasses are missing. 5. Collar is missing. 6. Computer is wider.

Riddler

What does this represent? esroh gnidir

Alpha triangle

1 Atomic number 16
2 _ easy _ a pie
3 Filled a chair
4 Sail support
5 Defensive ditches
6 Nearly
7 Shipwreck remains

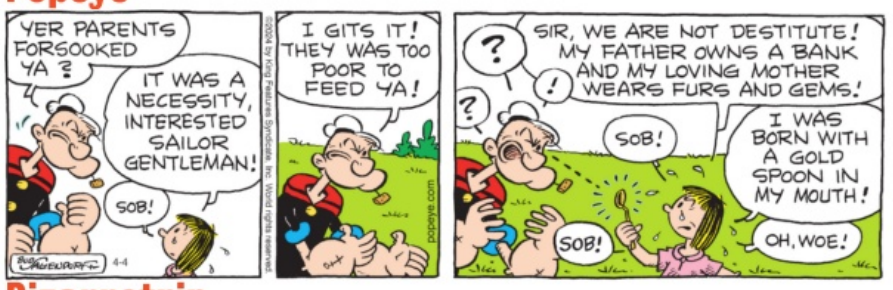


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye


YER PARENTS FORSOOKED YA ?
IT WAS A NECESSITY, INTERESTED SAILOR GENTLEMAN!
SOB!
I GITS IT! THEY WAS TOO POOR TO FEED YA!
SIR, WE ARE NOT DESTITUTE! MY FATHER OWNS A BANK AND MY LOVING MOTHER WEARS FURS AND GEMS!
SOB!
I WAS BORN WITH A GOLD SPOON IN MY MOUTH!
SOB!
OH, WOE!

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

HEY, DEAN. DO YOU WANT TO GO WITH ME TO BOWLING PRACTICE?
SURE! YOUR TEAMMATES ARE SO GOOD AT BOWLING.
WHAT ABOUT ME?
YOU'RE REALLY GOOD AT DRIVING US THERE!
HART OF THE CITY © 2024 ANDREWS MCMEEL
@OCHARTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft

B... BUT THE ROTATION LIST SAID I WASN'T SUPPOSED TO START TILL SATURDAY!
THE ☆ IT DID!!
WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU, CRANKSHAFT... CAN'T YOU READ!!?
I DECIDED TO LEARN TO READ BECAUSE I DIDN'T EVER WANT TO MISS ANYTHING AGAIN.
BATIUK & DAVIS tombatiuk.com/books
9·25
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Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you are blessed by the moon. New sources of income may open up, and your past investments will begin paying off with profits. Your losses are likely to turn into profits, which will boost your financial health. Health issues related to your parents may also be resolved now.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, you may implement your business plans with the help of your strong network. A big order may come through with the aid of your wisdom. There may be a good understanding between you and your spouse, which will enhance harmony in your domestic life. Lovebirds will enjoy their happy moments.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you are blessed by the moon. Messy situations of the past days are now under control. You may initiate your postponed work and receive rewards for your hard work. There will be gains in your business, boosting your finances. You may spend money on artefacts or literature and might also plan for overseas travel.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, you may not feel well and could face health issues, which might affect both your professional and domestic life. You could be upset due to your spouse's health concerns. Patience will be tested multiple times. Avoid making investments in new business projects, as they could result in losses. Students should avoid distractions and focus on their studies.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you are blessed by a positive moon. You may be able to make quick decisions on the professional front. New opportunities in business may arise, boosting your confidence. You may start a new innovation with the help of your partner, which will contribute to growing your business in the near future.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you are blessed by the moon. You will perform well at work, and you may expect promotions or transfers leading to gains. You may even consider changing your current job. Your relationship with your boss will improve, and chronic health issues will be resolved, bringing happiness to your family.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today is a good day. Things will be under control, and you will enjoy your work. Your focus will be sharp and will be reflected in the way you work. Your wisdom will help you make difficult decisions in your professional life. Past investments will begin paying off now.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you may feel disappointed with your current position at work or at home. You may not enjoy any moment and could end up spending your hard-earned money on worthless items, affecting your savings. You may plan for migration or change your current living situation. It's advised to take care of your parents' health.

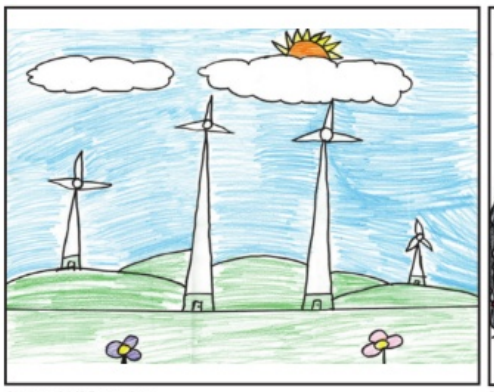
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, you may make decisions quickly, which will bring benefits in day-to-day life. With the help of your colleagues, you may make difficult decisions and achieve success easily. Property-related disputes with siblings are likely to be resolved, and you may also expect some short trips.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, you are advised to control your straightforwardness, as loose talk may affect those around you. You may spend money on worthless things. Your mind may be racing with ideas, but it's best to approach important decisions with patience.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, you are blessed by the moon; the disappointment of the past few days will now turn into happiness. You may enjoy both professional and personal life, with your network helping you complete postponed projects. You may start a new venture with the help of your siblings, and your network will support you at every step.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, you may feel negativity around you and may experience impatience. Your focus on goals may be lost, causing a slowdown in your projects. This could lead to losses in business or work. You may also notice detachment from your responsibilities, which could affect your daily routine.

KIDZONE



Jaagruthi N Bengaluru

Sanjanna V, Bengaluru

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SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
1/4^(-1/2) = 4½ = 2%

RIDDLER
Horse back riding.
The words are horse and riding spelled backwards.

QUOTE UNCODE
People tend to forget their duties but remember their rights.

BULL'S EYE
aside, DISEASE, ease, eased, said, SEASIDE, seed, side

FAST FIVE

S	P	E	A	R
C	O	M	B	E
R	I	M	A	E
A	L	E	C	K
M	U	R	K	S

STRIKE OUT

O	D	E	S		T	E	A		A	R	T	I		

QUICK

MENSA PUZZLE
4. Split the left and right hand circles into 2 halves vertically. The numerical value of the letter in the upper left segment of the central circle equals the sum of the numbers in the left half of the left hand circle, and the letter in the lower left equals the sum of the numbers in the right half of the left hand circle. Repeat this pattern for the right hand circle.

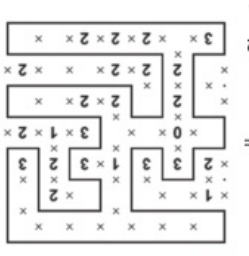
SUDOKU

1	7	5	6	4	8	2	9	3
3	8	4	7	9	2	5	1	6
9	2	6	3	5	1	7	4	8
2	3	1	8	7	4	9	6	5
6	5	8	2	3	9	4	7	1
4	9	7	1	6	5	8	3	2
7	1	9	5	8	3	6	2	4
8	4	2	9	1	6	3	5	7
5	6	3	4	2	7	1	8	9

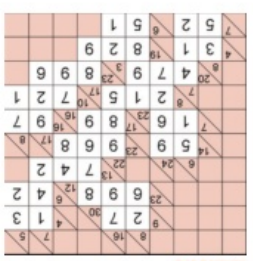
ALPHA TRIANGLE
S, As, Sat, Mast, Moats, Almost, Flotsam.

GO FIGURE
2 + 7 + 5 + 7 = 21
Easy
2 + 3 + 3 x 4 = 32
Medium
5 x 6 / 1 – 4 = 26
Hard

LOOP



KAKURO



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